

ABSTRACT

An overlay mattress has a plurality of internal elevating means, such as inflatable
15 bladders, for raising selected portions of the mattress to achieve a wide range of patient
positions. A fluid such as air may be supplied from a conventional surgical room air
supply, a compressed canister, or a compressor to inflate the bladders. A fluid
distribution system controls the flow of fluid to desired bladders. The overlay mattress
may be used in conjunction with conventional surgical tables and mattresses. A
20 thermal control means is also included in the overlay mattress to regulate a patient's
body temperature. A pressure shifting means is also included to reduce the risk of
bedsore formation.